

**Fulton Neighborhood Association Board of Directors
Minutes of Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 6:30 pm
FNA Meeting held in Pershing Park Rec Center & Zoom**

Board Members Present: Sophie Su, Kristen Ingle, John Bender, Seth Salenger, Mike Youngblood, Blake Ward, Tawnya Artisst-Anderson, Ian Harrison

Guests: CM Linea Palmisano, Darren Carroll

FNA Board Meeting called to order at 6:30p.m.

[Meeting Slides](#)

Quick recap

The Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) board meeting covered several key topics, including city updates, budget modifications, and upcoming events. CM Palmisano provided updates on city council activities, including street resurfacing projects, [drug paraphernalia ordinance](#) discussions, and potential [tax revenue options](#). The board reviewed a \$25,000 plan modification to fund various neighborhood initiatives, including staff support, community events, and administrative overhead through 2026-2027. They reviewed small grants totaling \$5,000 for local programs, including college visits, garden enhancements, and environmental initiatives. They approved additional funding opportunities, including \$1,000 for the Laker Locker program and \$1,300 for Lake Harriet Upper Campus-50th Street Streetscaping. The meeting also covered financial updates showing a \$10,000 deficit primarily due to the Rental Relief Assistance, and discussed expense policy changes moving to a pre-approval model. Upcoming events were reviewed, including Earth Day cleanup, the Snow Angels program wrapping up on April 16th, and the Winter Send Off event scheduled for May 17th, featuring various food vendors and entertainment.

Next steps

Earth Day

- Mike: Bring 10 mugs to the Earth Day event for fundraising
- Kristen: Create a fundraising flyer with QR code and donation language for Earth Day table
- Mike, Amanda, Seth, Kristen, Sophie & Tawnya: Provide coverage at Earth Day event (FNA table, Free Geek traffic direction, volunteer table)
- Seth: Coordinate with fundraising committee to implement sustaining donor program and prepare materials for Earth Day
- Board members: Share/republish Earth Day electronics recycling event information on social media

Small Grants

- John: Negotiate with Pink Giraffe to determine if \$1,400 in grant funding is workable for 3 events; if not, explore contingency funding

- John: Confirm with Lake Harriet Environmental Council and other grant recipients the final approved grant amounts before sending to the city
- John: Send notifications to grant applicants not selected for funding

Great Winter Send Off

- Board members: Contact local businesses about having tables at Great Winter Send-Off
- Board members: Distribute The Great Winter Sendoff program flyers (count houses you flyer to include in next year's annual neighborhood report)
- Board members: Volunteer for one-hour slots at Great Winter Send-Off

Summer Events

- Board members: Help identify and contact potential musical productions for Ice Cream Social event
- Board members: Help fill remaining community dinner sponsor/volunteer slots
- Tawnya: Volunteer to be lead(s) for Ice Cream Social event
- Sophie: Connect Tawnya with eQuality and the current process in motion for the ice cream social

Admin/Finance

- Jim: Update website with approved March meeting minutes from Sophie
- Jim: Update website with financial report once received from Seth
- Sophie: Write \$9,900 check for approved rental assistance, ensuring receipt/proof of delivery
- Seth: Deposit the \$500 check from co-sponsor for the Ice Cream Social
- Seth: Research and present options for reinvesting maturing CD (including online savings accounts) at next board meeting

Meeting Summary

City Council Member Linea Palmisano

CM Palmisano discussed several ongoing city council matters, including environmental improvements to street resurfacing and 53rd & York flood mitigation sewer project, explaining that it impacts approximately 30 properties with severe flood issues and has been on the capital budget queue due to its limited scope. She detailed upcoming council meetings addressing the mayor's cabinet appointments for City Attorney, Commissioner of Public Safety and City Operations Officer. She discussed an update to a [drug paraphernalia ordinance](#), noting the complexity around [decriminalizing](#) certain items while maintaining harm reduction efforts. CM Palmisano also covered a joint meeting about [alternative tax revenue](#) including discussion of an empty homes tax and commercial vacancy fees, particularly highlighting challenges with a vacant first-floor commercial space near 50th and France. She then focused on gun reform efforts, explaining that she is co-authoring an update to city ordinances with CMs Jameson Whiting and Aurin Chowdhury to address gun restrictions and community safety concerns.

Council Member Palmisano mentioned upcoming Lunch w/Linea meetings and is looking for new ideas for what city conversation would resonate with neighbors right now.

Kristen discussed neighbors' continued focus on the impacts of Operation Metro Surge. She reported FNA's commitment to \$20,000 for rent relief and \$10,000 in mutual aid, while expressing support for a temporary pre-eviction ordinance to provide 45 days delay so residents receiving assistance funds have time to work to get mutual aid or access other government funds that were recently made available. Kristen expressed the importance of combining [rent relief](#) and eviction pause policies.

Tawnya reflected on the evolving priorities of the board, noting a shift towards more socially activated initiatives and better neighborhood engagement.

Ian asked a question about tax revenue. CM Palmisano explained that downtown facilities like the Target Center are not exempt from taxes and described how downtown entertainment taxes support maintenance of city amenities. CM also mentioned the possibility of implementing a real estate transfer fee, noting that such measures typically require state approval and could go to a public vote.

Sophie recognized the departure of long-time board member Jane Kohen who will be moving out of the neighborhood and into downtown.

Darren Carroll was introduced to the board, who shared his background and interest in becoming more involved in FNA board work.

Board Decisions

1). Meeting Minutes

The board approved the March meeting minutes

Sophie made the motion, and Kristen seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

2). Fulton Garage sale on September 19th

Fulton will provide advertising of the event print and socials. Primary coordination coming from Lynnhurst and a neighbor.

Mike made the motion, and Tawnya seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

3). Plan Modification

The board discussed a \$25,000 plan modification (MoD) involving FNA website notice and a 21-day notification period, with plans to vote on it at the next board meeting. The discussion focused on how to fund approved budget items, including pulling from NRP funds while ensuring any amount over \$25,000 requires broader community engagement and community approval.

The board discussed strategies to engage the community in understanding these budget allocations, with Tawnya suggesting the use of interactive engagement tools like "beans in a jar" at upcoming events like Earth Day and Great Winter send-off. The group agreed to proceed with the \$25,000 allocation and to improve transparency by providing clearer descriptions of how the funds would be used, though they noted that community feedback on budget decisions is not currently required to approve the 25k budget modification.

Kristen moved to begin the 21-day notice period for the board's intent to conduct a plan modification, and Seth seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report

Seth presented the financial report, noting a \$10,000 deficit primarily due to the Rental Relief Assistance Grant, but stated that actual operating costs were under control. Seth proposed adding a detailed financial report to the website for greater transparency.

Expense Policy Updates & Donation Language

The board discussed the process for approving expenses, moving from a post-approval to a pre-approval model, and Seth outlined the new expense policy requirements and approval hierarchy. They also addressed the need to restructure budget forecasts to include detailed expense breakdowns for better financial tracking.

Sophie provided updates on administrative changes, including a new process for tracking expenses through a Google form system and a standardized approach to donation language that directs funds to the Friends of Fulton General Fund.

Program Updates & Key Initiatives

Small Grants Committee

John reported and the board reviewed and approved five small grants totaling \$5,000, including funding for art class series provided by Pink Giraffe MX, Southwest High School AVID to charter a college visit bus trip, Pershing Park Garden Champions, Lake Harriet Environmental Council, MPS Early Childhood Family Education.

The board also discussed potentially adding \$100 to fully fund three events with Pink Giraffe, and considered two additional funding requests that would need separate board votes. John will negotiate with Pink Giraffe and if the work cannot be done for less than \$100, Seth has proposed to donate to cover the remaining amount.

The board discussed funding decisions, approving suggested award nominations and additional funding opportunities. Additional funding opportunities included using our mutual aid budget to support the Laker Locker at Southwest High School, which provides school supplies and other donations to support student success and wellbeing. And, using 50th St. Streetscape budget for the Lake Harriet Upper Campus for school gardens and educational space.

The board first took up the motion to approve the \$5,000 small grants. Sophie made the motion, and Seth seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

The second motion was to approve the additional funding opportunities. Seth made the motion, and Mike seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

Earth Day Planning

Earth Day event is on April 18th 9:30-1:00pm. Additional volunteers are needed to help at the FNA table and direct traffic. The board discussed promoting the electronics recycling aspect of the event and planned to create a fundraising flyer with a QR code for donations and merchandise sales, including mugs and totes.

Additional information about Free Geek donation restrictions and volunteer sign-up is on FNA's linktree: <https://linktr.ee/fultonneighborhoodmpls>

Snow Angels Program Update

Sophie provided updates on the Snow Angels program, which will conclude on April 16th after shoveling 46 sidewalks and receiving media coverage. She announced details for the Great Winter Send-Off event on May 17th from noon to 3pm, including food vendors, a concert band, and community booths, with volunteer opportunities available. Ian discussed potential fundraising ideas, including community dinners and silent auctions, suggesting a gala-style event similar to the Taste of Linden Hills that could raise significant funds for the organization.

Neighborhood Coordinator

The board is actively recruiting for a coordinator position with in-person interviews underway, aiming to fill the role by May.

Community Dinners

Community dinners are scheduled to start June 17th, with volunteer and sponsor sign-ups needed, including two sponsors already confirmed.

Community Dinner Volunteer & Donation sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FADAD2FA5F8C61-63088413-community#/>

Ice Cream Social

Sophie discussed plans for an ice cream social on July 15th, potentially involving Equality, a non-profit that provides paid work opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities, who could provide ice cream and volunteers for \$600.

Tawnya offered to be a co-leader for the event, and we are looking for additional support from another member or volunteer to assist with the event.

Ice Cream Social volunteer sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FADAD2FA5F8C61-63424502-2026#/>

Eliza Winston

The board discussed a historical initiative to recognize Eliza Winston, an enslaved person whose case ended de facto slavery in Minnesota, with plans to create a plaque or marker at the likely location of her rescue.

Board adjourned at 8:50pm

Minutes submitted by Kristen Ingle, FNA Secretary.